



In this email...

- Six Nebraska locations added to National Register of Historic Places
- **Arlington High School** students make history
- History Nebraska **awards**: call for nominations
- Blizzard tale: Would the Christmas wagon make it to **Fort Robinson**?
- Video: **Blizzard of 1948-49**
- Farm Strike! The **1977 Tractorcade**
- December events

National Register adds six Nebraska locations



The National Register of Historic Places has just listed six “new” Nebraska locations: a farmstead near Norfolk, two houses in Plattsmouth, a house associated with a historic nursery in Arlington, a Carnegie library in Stanton, and a downtown historic district in Cozad. Take a look and you’ll understand why. We have [photos and stories](#) of them all.

High school students nominated one of these historic buildings.

Barry Jurgensen's history class at Arlington High School researched and prepared the nomination for the George A. Marshall House. Their nomination included drone footage (watch the 47-second video below) and a 3D printed model of the house—both firsts in the world of National Register nominations.



Nominations open for History Nebraska Awards



If you've been a History Nebraska member for a while, you may recognize **Barry Jurgensen's** name above. In 2014 he won what is now known as **History Nebraska's Excellence in Teaching Award**. He's an amazing teacher who's getting his students passionately involved in Nebraska history.

But he's not the only one. Across Nebraska, teachers, volunteers, community leaders, donors, and groups are helping in various ways to preserve and interpret our state's history.

We need you to tell us about those people.

We're calling for nominations for our 2018 Annual Awards Banquet and Legislative Reception, to be held March 4, 2019, at the Nebraska History Museum. Help us honor our fellow Nebraskans. Help us recognize individuals and groups who are setting an example for the next generation.

[Learn more about the three awards.](#)



The Christmas wagon comes to Fort Robinson

A blizzard was howling and Fort Robinson lay 125 miles to the north. Would the Christmas wagon make it in time? Would the two men and their mule team make it at all? A true story told by a Nebraska soldier. [Keep reading.](#)

 **History Nebraska**
November 19 at 11:42 AM · 🌐

One of the worst winters in Nebraska history began 70 years ago today.



The winter of 1948-49 is remembered as one of the worst in Nebraska history.

96K Views

Nearly **100,000 people** have watched our new video. **Are you one of them?**



Farm Strike! The 1977 Tractorcade

Lincoln police said it was one of the worst traffic jams they'd ever seen, "even worse than the football game." More than a thousand tractors and farm trucks descended on the capital city on December 10, 1977. They came to announce a farm strike. [Keep reading.](#)



Upcoming events

December events are planned at the Thomas P. Kennard House and the Nebraska History Museum. [Keep reading.](#)



History Nebraska (formerly *Nebraska History News*), December 2018 (Vol. 71, No. 12), David Bristow,
Editor

Copyright © 2018 History Nebraska, history.nebraska.gov
(Formerly the Nebraska State Historical Society)

Our mailing address:

1500 R Street, Lincoln, NE 68508-1651

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[Complete articles from history.nebraska.gov/blog](http://history.nebraska.gov/blog):

Six New Locations Added to National Register of Historic Places

November 28, 2018

History Nebraska is pleased to announce six Nebraska locations have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Domme-Haase Farmstead in Madison County, the George E. Dovey House and Velosco V. Leonard House in Cass County, the George A. Marshall House in Washington County, the Stanton Carnegie Library in Stanton County, and the Cozad Downtown Historic District were considered and selected by the National Parks Service for listing.



The prominent feature of the Dommer-Haase Farmstead, located at 2400 W. Eisenhower Avenue near Norfolk, is a rock-faced concrete block farmhouse that was built in the early twentieth

century. Concrete block was a common building material for commercial buildings and residential properties from 1905 to 1930. However, over the years many of these resources have disappeared and the Dommer-Haase Farmstead serves as a representative property of a once common, now rare building type. The nomination also includes two agricultural outbuildings that were built when the farmstead was in the ownership of its original homesteader, Wilhelm Dommer, who sold the farm in 1895. Two other outbuildings are part of the National Register listing were built by a subsequent owner, William Haase, who married one of Dommer's daughters. Haase is also the likely builder of the concrete block farmhouse. Together, the farmhouse and the outbuildings serve as an intact collection of agricultural buildings that are a representation of a turn of the twentieth-century farm complex. The property's period of significance spans from 1890 to 1920.



The George E. Dovey House, also known as “The Heights”, is located at 423 North 4th Street in Plattsmouth. It was named after a locally prominent businessman who built his home circa 1887 in the Queen Anne style. The home retains its distinctive Queen Anne characteristics such as the steeply-pitched roof with intersecting, asymmetrical cross gables, multiple variations of spindle work throughout both the interior and exterior, a one-story veranda along the front elevation and wraps around to the side, and a rounded tower on a prominent corner of the house that extends past the roofline. It is adorned with original hardwood floors, pocket doors, elaborate woodwork, and period-appropriate wallpaper. George E. Dovey House is listed at the local level of significance as a representation of a Late Victorian home in the Queen Anne subtype.



The Velosco V. Leonard House, located at 323 North 6th Street in Plattsmouth, is the Italianate home of a photographer whose studio is also listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Plattsmouth Main Street Historic District. Built in 1883 the Italianate home had once served as a duplex and the current owners have restored much of the house to its original configuration and appearance. Italianate homes are identifiable by their oversized, bracketed eaves, slightly-sloped hipped roof, and tall, slim windows with decorative hoods. Alterations that have been made are consistent with the historic character and design of the home and adhere to Historic Preservation standards. The Velosco V. Leonard House is listed at the local level of significance as a fine representation of a Late Victorian home in the Italianate style.



George A. Marshall, located at 301 North 8th Street in Arlington, was a prominent horticulturalist who, along with his brother Chester, established Marshall Nurseries near Arlington in 1889. During his time in the nursery business, Marshall gained a strong reputation in the horticulture industry as the nursery's products won prizes at the World Fair and the company expanded to include operations in Omaha and in Denver, CO. Perhaps Marshall's greatest achievement was the creation of a new species of ash tree known as the 'Marshall Seedless Ash' which had widespread use appearing on campuses from Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR to Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Plantings from the Marshall Nurseries were incorporated into the landscape at numerous prominent buildings, most notably the Nebraska State Capitol in Lincoln. After two decades of living near the nursery east of Arlington, George and his wife Dora built a new home in town in the Prairie School style. The home still retains its original design, materials, and workmanship. The George A. Marshall House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for both its association with a significant person and for its architectural value as a good representation of an early twentieth-century American movement home in the Prairie School style. This nomination was researched, written, and presented before the State Historic Preservation Board by students of the Arlington High School History Honors Class – Julian Camden, Emily Kraemer, Evan Hammang, Alexis Stortz, Trent Borgmann, and Alek Timm – under the direction of Mr. Barry Jurgensen.



The Stanton Carnegie Library, located at 1009 Jackpine Street in Stanton, was originally constructed in 1915 and has served as Stanton's public library ever since. It is one of sixty-nine libraries in Nebraska that were built using a grant from Andrew Carnegie. The Stanton Carnegie Library was designed by James C. Stitt and has been listed in the National Register due to its continued role in the educational development of the community from the time of its construction. The library is also significant for its contribution to the social history of Stanton serving as a gathering place for groups, organizations, and public meetings during its history. The Carnegie library retains its original layout with open reading spaces, hardwood banisters, wainscoting, and interior doors, while an ADA-accessible entrance and parking area have been added to provide access to visitors. The Stanton Carnegie Library is listed at the local level of significance and is the first property in Stanton County to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



The Cozad Downtown Historic District contains 37 contributing resources and 1 previously listed property that demonstrate the commercial development of Cozad from roughly 1890 to 1968. The historic district is bounded by 9th Street to 7th Street, H Street to F Street. Since it was established, the district has remained a core of commercial activities in Cozad. Like many Nebraska communities, the downtown development was highly influenced by the railroad and agriculture. In the 1910s and 1920s, the original route of the Lincoln Highway passed through downtown Cozad greatly influencing its development until rerouted south of downtown in 1926. The district contains an intact collection of late-nineteenth- and early-to-mid-twentieth-century commercial buildings that reflect seven decades of commercial development in Cozad. The Cozad Downtown Historic District is locally significant and is the ninth listing in the National Register of Historic Places from Dawson County.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's inventory of properties deemed worthy of preservation. It is part of a national program to coordinate and support local and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect the nation's historic and archeological resources. The National Register was developed to recognize historic places and their role in contributing to our country's heritage. Properties listed in the National Register either individually or as contributing to a historic district are eligible for State and Federal tax incentives.

For more information on the National Register program in Nebraska, contact the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office at History Nebraska at (402) 471-4775 or visit the [Historic Preservation](#) page.

2018 History Nebraska Awards

History Nebraska has opened their call for nominations for their 2018 Annual Awards Banquet and Legislative Reception. The awards ceremony and reception will take place on Monday, March 4th, 2019, at the Nebraska History Museum. The History Nebraska Awards will honor Nebraskans through three awards.

The *Champion of History Award* is given annually to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual or organization who helps to preserve or interpret Nebraska history.

The *History Nebraska's Excellence in Teaching Award* is given annually to a teacher who excels in teaching Nebraska history through creativity and imagination in the classroom by using documents, artifacts, historic sites, oral histories, and other primary sources.

The *History Nebraska Advocacy Award* is given annually to recognize outstanding contributions or assistance by an individual or organization to History Nebraska through volunteerism, advocacy, or donation.

To nominate someone for an award, please fill out the form below, or [download the printable nomination form](#) and mail to 1500 R. Street, Lincoln, NE, 68508. Postmark must be no later than January 18th, 2019.

The Christmas Wagon Comes to Fort Robinson, 1882

November 30, 2018



Martin Weber never forgot the year he traveled through a blizzard to bring Christmas packages to Fort Robinson. In 1934 the old soldier described his 1882 adventure in a letter to a veterans' newspaper called *Winners of the West*.

In 1882 much of today's Fort Robinson State Historical Park had yet to be built, and many of the original log buildings still remained. It was still very much a frontier outpost. Weber, a corporal, was ordered to take a driver and six-mule team to Fort Sidney—the nearest railroad depot—to pick up the Christmas goods for Fort Robinson. He writes:

“We started about December 10, a six days' journey. The weather was ideal, clear, sunny days and we arrived at Ft. Sidney on time but were delayed two days owing to the non-arrival of the goods that was coming over the Union Pacific Railroad. They finally arrived the morning of the 18th. We loaded our wagon at once and pulled out for Ft. Robinson 125 miles to the North.



Photo: Fort Robinson was still known as Camp Robinson when this photo was taken in 1877. The view is from the south. History Nebraska RG5899-3-1

Image at top of page: "The Corporal's Christmas Dinner," Harper's Weekly, Dec. 17, 1892.

"The weather had turned cold and frost began to fly through the air indicating a storm. The next morning the storm broke in all its fury, a regular blizzard raging. We had to head into the storm. We made Camp Clarke where the Sidney-Black Hills Trail crossed the North Platte River" at present-day Bridgeport.

"The storm had increased during the night... The bridge tender and his wife advised us to stay until the storm should pass as they did not think we could travel in such a blizzard. As much as we disliked to leave the snug quarters and hot meals (we were to enjoy for the next three days only a ration of frozen bread and bacon), we bid them goodbye and headed into the storm. Without shelter or fire, three days and two nights, when we thot that each day would be our last, we traveled over an open country for about fifty miles and had to break trail all the way, it being 30 to 40 degrees below zero.

“The mules were going home, was the only reason we were able to make them face the blizzard. We had plenty of corn and oats for mules and the horses and at night we tied them so the wagon would act as a wind break and covered them with blanket lined covers. We would spread our tent on the snow, roll our bed and pull part of the tent over us and let the storm howl.

“We got to the Running Water stage station the night of the 23rd. Here we had hay for mules and horses and a warm place to cook our supper. How good that hot coffee tasted....”



Photo: Reconstructed log barracks at Fort Robinson. A bed like this would look pretty good after sleeping in the snow.

Braced by more hot coffee, they started out early the next morning for the last twenty miles. The “storm had passed, the sky cleared” and they arrived at the Fort on Christmas Eve.

“When I passed the officers’ quarters, the kiddies were all out running up and down the walks. When they saw me, they began to shout, ‘The Christmas wagon has come!’ Hearing them the officers and men came out. They could hardly believe it until the teamster drove his six weary mules up and we began to unload the Christmas goods. Even the officers were willing to help.

“So old Santa arrived, and there was a Merry Christmas after all had given up hope of seeing either. I was snow blind and had to wear dark glasses for some time after that.”

Farm Strike! The 1977 Tractorcade

November 30, 2018



Lincoln police said it was one of the worst traffic jams they'd ever seen, "even worse than the football game."

More than a thousand tractors and farm trucks descended on the capital city on December 10, 1977. They came to announce a farm strike. The *Omaha World-Herald* reported:

"On Interstate 80 west of Lincoln, a line of vehicles poised on the shoulder awaiting the zero hour to move in stretched about 13 miles. And it was only one of four movements into the city, each coming from a point of the compass."



Above: Line of trucks and tractors in Lincoln. From Omaha World-Herald, Dec. 11, 1977. Top photo: Omaha World-Herald, Dec. 11, 1977.

The event was organized by a group called the American Agricultural Movement. It was part of a nationwide protest in response to what was becoming a “farm crisis.”

Farm income had been strong in the early 1970s, but by 1977, in the words of historian Bill Ganzel, “record crops had pushed prices down, and the cost of fuel, seed, pesticides and other farm costs had risen... In addition, the value of farm land — the ‘equity’ or value that farmers use to secure loans to operate each year — had dropped. Banks were no longer willing to loan to smaller farmers. Many were in danger of losing their farms.”

How do farmers go on strike? Movement leaders announced that farmers across the US would stop buying or selling on December 14 unless the federal government met their demands. They wanted farm programs to ensure “parity”—meaning that generally the farmers’ income and expenses would be balanced, leaving enough to provide a reasonable standard of living.

The plan was reminiscent of the 1930s Farm Holiday Movement. During the Great Depression, farmers faced a similar combination of high debt and low commodity prices. Some farmers withheld their products from the market to create scarcity and drive up prices. In Nebraska and Iowa, groups of farmers even set up roadblocks and searched trucks to keep other farmers from selling.



Photo: Members of the Farmers' Holiday Association stop a truck on its way to Omaha, ca. 1932. History Nebraska RG986-2

But the Farm Holiday Movement didn't succeed, and ag economists predicted a similar failure for the 1977 farm strike.

"Historically, farmers have never been able to make joint actions such as this work," said a syndicated article reprinted by the *World-Herald*. "For every farmer willing to withhold production, a handful will happily undercut him by selling."

Opinion polls showed that most Nebraskans supported the strike. Governor J.J. Exon even rode on the back of tractor to a rally at the Devaney Center, where he and Lincoln mayor Helen Boosalis were among the speakers addressing the crowd of 6,000 strike supporters.



Photo: Nebraska governor Jim Exon, standing, on his way to the strike rally. Omaha World-Herald, Dec. 11, 1977.

But opinion polls told a second story. While most farmers said they supported the strike, only a third said they planned to participate.

In the end, the strike failed and the Farm Crisis deepened over the next several years. [Read more about it](#) at Nebraskastudies.org, a joint project of History Nebraska, NET Telecommunications, and the Nebraska Department of Education.

Did you participate in the Tractorcade or the strike? [Tell us about it.](#)